DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 402 911 IR 018 201

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE | Satellite Town Meeting. |
| INSTITUTION | Department of Education, Washington, DC. |
| REPORT NO | ED-OIIA95-5 |
| PUB DATE | 96 |
| NOTE | 7p.; Six panel brochure, with text on three sides. |
| AVAILABLE FROM | U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20202; toll-free telephone: (800) USA-LEARN. |
| PUB TYPE | Reports - Descriptive (141) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC01 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | Community Cooperation; Computer Mediated Communication; *Educational Improvement; *Educational Objectives; Elementary Secondary Education; Government School Relationship; *Information Networks; *Partnerships in Education; *Teleconferencing |
| IDENTIFIERS | Department of Education; National Education Goals 1990; Satellite Dishes; *Satellite Uses in Education |

ABSTRACT

On the third Tuesday of each month, U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley, and Deputy Secretary, Madeleine M. Kunin, host the Satellite Town Meeting--a live, interactive teleconference where renowned national experts, local educators, and community leaders share ideas on how to improve schools and reach the National Educational Goals. It offers an opportunity for networking with people across the nation who share a commitment to building community partnerships and a common vision of educational excellence for all children. It also provides a regular occasion for organizing a school or community's education improvement programs. The audience includes parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, civic and community activists, college faculty, and others. All that is required is for one person to invite the key people in the community, school, or neighborhood who care about education, and then to find a site that has a satellite dish. Major national cable outlets rebroadcast the Satellite Town Meeting each month, and a number of state educational television systems, Public Broadcasting System member stations, and public access television channels broadcast the program live. Past topics include: strengthening family and school partnerships; enhancing mathematics and science education; creating safer schools; improving preschool programs; connecting schools to the Information Superhighway; expanding the arts in education; and creating the school-to-work transition to prepare students for promising careers. (AEF)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

# SATELLITE TOWN MEETING

ED 402 911



Here's your chance to join an exciting conversation with people who are doing what it takes to improve American education

IR053201

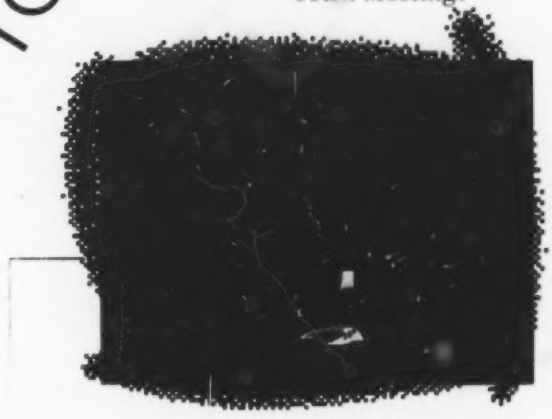
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



U.S. Department of Education

# SATELLITE TOWN MEETING

Across America, new partnerships of concerned citizens -- parents, teachers, students, principals, businesspersons, mayors, legislators, community leaders, and others -- have come together to improve their local schools and help their children learn more. One way these many hundreds of communities are sharing ideas and keeping up-to-date with the latest information is through a unique service from the U.S. Department of Education: the *Satellite Town Meeting*.



On the third Tuesday of each month U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and Deputy Secretary Madeleine M. Kunin host the Satellite Town Meeting -- a live, interactive teleconference for communities working to improve their schools and to reach the National Education Goals. You can join this discussion, too.

## What is it?

The Satellite Town Meeting is just what the name implies -- a meeting, made possible by telecommunications technology where thousands of people in sites all over the country get together and discuss the most critical and timely issues in education. Renowned national experts, local educators, and community leaders share ideas on what it takes to create successful school improvement programs and keep them going. They offer practical advice for your school and community.

## Who participates?

The Satellite Town Meeting audience includes parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, civic and community activists, college faculty, and others. The Secretary's guests have included teachers, principals, parents and community leaders from across the country, as well as President Clinton,

Attorney General Janet Reno and other cabinet officials, Ernest Boyer of the Carnegie Foundation, the College Board's Donald Stewart, and other well-known figures in American education. And you can participate via a toll-free telephone number.

## What do we talk about?

Past topics include: strengthening family and school partnerships; enhancing mathematics and science education; creating safer schools; improving preschool programs; connecting schools to the Information Superhighway; expanding the arts in education; and creating the school-to-work transition to prepare students for promising careers.

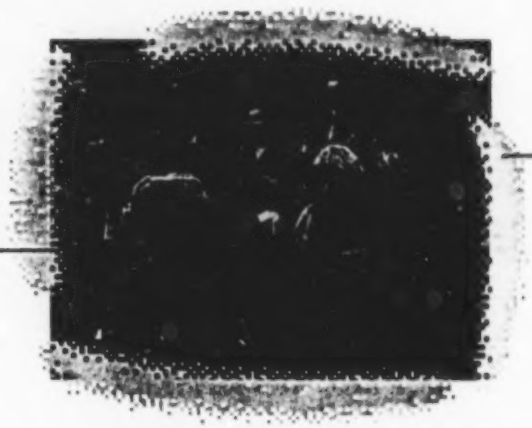
## How does your community benefit?

The Satellite Town Meeting offers an opportunity for networking with people across the nation who share a commitment to building community partnerships and a common vision of educational excellence for all children. It also provides a regular occasion for organizing a school or community's education improvement effort as parents, educators, and other citizens gather to take part in the program, extend discussions on the topic, and decide on their own approach to school improvement.

## How do you take part?

■ ***As part of an organized group meeting at a "downlink" site.***

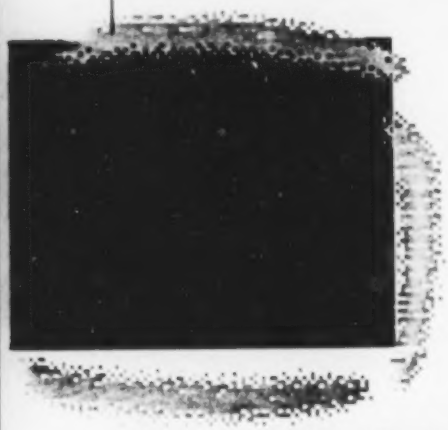
All it takes is for one person to invite the key people in the community, school or neighborhood who care about education, and then to find a site that has a satellite dish. In most communities, that site will often be a school building. If your local school or school district is not equipped with satellite capability, there are national organizations that encourage their local affiliates to serve as downlink facilities for the Satellite Town Meeting. These include the Public Broadcasting System, Wal-Mart stores and Sam's Clubs, local chambers of commerce, and Johnson Controls branch offices.



Other possible downlink sites are public libraries, community colleges, television stations, government offices, businesses, hospitals, hotels, and even private homes with backyard satellite dishes.

■ ***At home.***

Major national cable outlets, including The Discovery Network and Mind Extension University, rebroadcast the Satellite Town Meeting each month, and a number of state educational television systems, Public Broadcasting System member stations, and scores of public access television channels broadcast the program live in cities and towns around the United States.



## How can the Satellite Town Meeting work for you?

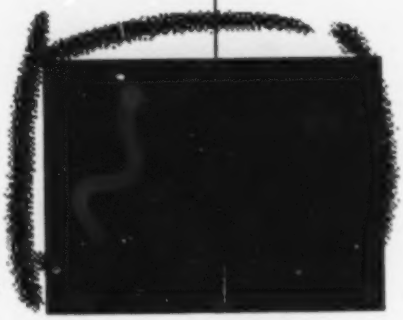
***U.S. communities have found many creative ways to use the Satellite Town Meeting:***

- The college of education at a state university in Arizona downlinks the Town Meeting so that students and faculty can take part together.
- A public television station in Western Pennsylvania provides its teleconferencing facility as a meeting site.
- In Washington state, a community offers two sites for participation: one group watches the Town Meeting in English, while the other takes advantage of the Spanish simulcast.
- In South Carolina, a major employer partners with community institutions to offer the Town Meeting at the newly developed local aquarium.
- A small town in Massachusetts broadcasts the Satellite Town Meeting on its local cable access channel and then offers its own local meeting featuring area community leaders and educators.

## Have questions?

**For information about establishing a downlink site, suggestions for invitees or program topics, or information about the Satellite Town Meeting, call:**

# 1-800-USA-LEARN



**The Satellite Town Meeting is produced in partnership with the National Alliance of Business and the Center for Workforce Preparation.**

**The program is in the public domain. Use, duplication, or distribution of the Satellite Town Meeting is free and unrestricted... and encouraged!**

"The Satellite Town Meeting lets local people know there are people working on the same problems we have. Thanks for providing this service!"

*Montgomery, Alabama*

"I found this program to be excellent – the ideas were invaluable! The possibilities for communities to incorporate these ideas into their current efforts are exciting!"

*Crook County School District, Oregon*

"It is very beneficial to see what other school systems across the country are doing to improve education."

*North Platte, Nebraska*

"I appreciate the Secretary's remarks. It shows how we are all working on the same plan."

*Rochester, New York*

U.S. Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

1-800-USA-LEARN

BEST COPY AVAiLABLE



ED/OIIA95-5